

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Welcome . . .

My name is Dr. Mark Rohrbaugh and I am the Director of the Office of Technology Transfer at the NIH.

Seated next to me is my Deputy Director, Dr. Bonny Harbinger.

Doris Campos-Infantino, the Deputy Ombudsperson for the National Institutes of Health, will be serving as the moderator for this public meeting.

This public meeting is being held pursuant to requests from various constituencies that the Government exercise its march-in rights under the Bayh Dole Act in connection with patents owned by Abbott Laboratories. The constituencies expressed concern over the price of ritonavir (sold under the tradename Norvir), which is covered by these patents and marketed by Abbott for the treatment of patients with HIV/AIDS.

The purpose of this public meeting is to give us an opportunity to listen to comments from representatives of constituencies and to hear various points of view. These comments and viewpoints then will be considered by the NIH in making the decision of whether we have received information that might warrant the exercise of march-in rights. The NIH will make that initial determination and, if necessary, will initiate any formal march-in proceeding as required under the regulations. We will make every effort to come to a decision as quickly as possible.

I will now turn this meeting over to Ms Campos-Infantino.